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cont. the cells in the tissue which are competent to form somatic embryos, in comparison with the number present in non-transformed like tissue.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning after "EXAMPLES" on page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Example 1: *Isolation of Arabidopsis genes encoding proteins interacting with the Arabidopsis SERK gene product.*--

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In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 14.

Please amend claims 9-13 as follows:

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9. (Amended) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 10, wherein said polynucleotide is operably linked to the SERK gene promoter, the carrot chitinase DcEP3-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* AtChitIV gene promoter, The *Arabidopsis* LTP-1 gene promoter, The *Arabidopsis* bel-1 gene promoter, the petunia fbp-7 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* ANT gene promoter or the promoter of the O126 gene of *Phalaenopsis*.

10. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 2.

11. (Amended) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 10 having the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. (Amended) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 10 wherein the nucleotide sequence is modified in that mRNA instability motifs or polyadenylation signals are removed and/or codons which are preferred by the plant into which the DNA is to be inserted are used.

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13. (Amended) A transgenic plant or plant cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide according to claim 10.